

Merrimack Canal  
Lowell, Massachusetts  
Middlesex County

HAER No, MA-3

HAER  
MASS,  
9-LOW,  
10-

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS  
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Historic American Engineering Record  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

MERRIMACK CANAL

HAER  
MASS,  
9-LOW,  
10-

DATE: ca. 1821-23

LOCATION: Between Swamp Locks and Merrimack Mills,  
Lowell, Massachusetts

DESIGNED BY: Unknown

OWNER: Proprietors of Locks and Canals

SIGNIFICANCE: The Merrimack Canal was the first of the series of power canals constructed at Lowell. At the end of it, the Merrimack Mills produced textiles using the process developed by Francis Cabot Lowell at Waltham, Massachusetts, whereby raw cotton was turned into finished cloth on one site. The Merrimack Mills, the only facility fed by the canal, was one of the largest manufactories in Lowell throughout the nineteenth century. More extensive information can be found in HAER No. MA-1, Lowell Canal System.

TRANSMITTED BY: Monica E. Hawley, Historian, 1983